

BOROUGH OF SALTASH

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1937

HUGH G. ROBINSON, M.B., Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

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THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1937.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	6257
Population (Registrar General's Estimate, Mid 1937)	6611
Number of Inhabited Houses	2020
Rateable Value	£32,782
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£130

The Borough consists of a Residential Area, with Saltash, St. Stephens and Burraton as the built-up area. The population is composed largely of Government employees and other families, and a certain number of Retired Service people. There is a Creamery in the town which employs a number a people. In the outer part of St. Stephens, Agriculture is the main industry, and there are two Quarries which provide employment.

Unemployment remains much the same.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Corrected by inward and outward transfer.

LIVE BIRTHS :	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	74	35	39
Illegitimate	2	1	1
STILL BIRTHS :			
Legitimate	6	3	3
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Live Births : Rate per 1,000 estimated population			11.4
Still Births : Rate per 1,000 live and still births			84
Birth Rate for England and Wales			14.9

DEATHS :

Total number corrected by Transfer	107
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	161
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	127
Death Rate for England and Wales	12.4

The adjusted Rate is a percentage rate, varying in different localities to bring the sex and age groups into equality throughout the country.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.—

	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.</i>
Peurperal Sepsis—	0	—
Other Puerperal Causes	1	12

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	105
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	108
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	nil

TABLE SHEWING CAUSES OF DEATH AND AGE INCIDENCE.

DISEASE.	M	F	Un. 1	1-2	2-3	3-5	5- 10	10- 15	15- 25	25- 35	35- 45	45- 55	55- 65	65- 75	75 & over
Whooping Cough		1		1											
Influenza	4	2									1		2	2	1
Tuberculosis of Lung	1	1							2						
Locomotor Ataxy		1											1		
Cancer	5	8										1	2	5	5
Diabetes	1	1												2	
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2	3												2	3
Heart Disease	15	19										4	5	12	13
Aneurysm		1													1
Other Circulatory	4	1												1	4
Bronchitis	2													1	1
Septic Ulcer	1														1
Liver Diseases	1											1			
Other Digestive Diseases	4		1	1											2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis		1												1	
Other Puerperal Diseases		1								1					
Congenital Debility, etc.	3	2	5												
Senility	2	3													5
Suicide	1														1
Other Violence	1	1			1									1	
Other Defined Diseases	8	6	2				1		1		1	1		3	5
	55	52	8	2	1		1		3	1	2	7	10	30	42

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

1.—PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

(a) Part time Medical Officer.

(b) Sanitary Inspector, who is also Borough Surveyor :

FRANK J. HARRIS, M.I.M. and C.E., F.I.A.A., C.R. San. I.

2.—There are no changes or developments in the laboratory facilities, ambulance arrangements, but in the Nursing Services there has been an addition of a second Nurse qualified to work under the Midwives Act.

3.—The County Council are still the authority for Maternity and Child Welfare work.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (1) WATER.—

The Council have completed a new agreement with the Plymouth City Council for the supply of water for a further period of 30 years, with a maximum in any one year of 100,000,000 gallons.

New 9-inch pipes have been laid on the approaches to the Royal Albert Bridge.

New 4-inch and 5-inch mains have been laid from Longstone to Kimberley Terrace with satisfactory results.

New 3-inch mains have been laid on the Wayfield, Belle Vue and Frith Estates.

Pressure-reducing Valves have been inserted to reduce pressure in the power portions and to give increased head in the higher levels of the town.

(2)—SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The Forder and Salt Mill Sewage Works have been attended to and sludge removed and filters cleaned and repaired as required.

New Sewers laid : 505ft. of 9-inch ; 2,015ft. of 6-inch ; and 1,731ft. of 4-inch drains, together with the necessary Manholes, etc.

2.—RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action taken.

3.—(1) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

(2) REFUSE COLLECTION.

Refuse is collected by motor vehicle with adjustable covers and conveyed to Salt Mill, where the Marsh Meadow is being filled to avoid flooding. Regulation Bins have been insisted on for all properties. Collections twice weekly, except in the business portions of the Town, where three collections weekly are made.

(3) SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

INSPECTIONS :	Slaughter Houses	67
	Cowsheds and Dairies	94
	Refuse Collections, Disposal and Bins	34
	Ice Cream Premises	27
	Bakehouses and Workplaces	38
	Infectious Diseases	9
	Water Supply, etc.	109
	W.C.s, Drains, Testing, etc.	162
						<hr/> 540 <hr/>

DEFECTS FOUND AND REMEDIED AFTER FORMAL NOTICE.—

Slaughter Houses	6
Cowsheds and Dairies	7
Refuse Disposal, Bins	29
Bakehouses, and Workplaces	5
Water Supply, etc., Valves, Taps, etc.	38
W.C.s, Drains, etc.	32
					<hr/> 117 <hr/>

(4) SHOPS : No Action.

(5) SMOKE ABATEMENT : None.

(6) SEA-WATER BATH.

This was well patronised. Twelve additional Dressing Boxes were built in the early Spring to provide the necessary increase of accommodation for Bathers. The water is replenished at every tide, and no complaints were received except that in rough weather a small amount of sediment has been washed in, and then the bath has been cleaned out at the first opportunity.

(7) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS : No action necessary.

4.—SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary arrangements at the Schools have been periodically examined and found in order.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

The Contractors for the 72 new Council Houses and Flats on the Warfelton Estate will, it is hoped, have completed the scheme in April, 1938. Twenty-four houses and flats were in occupation at the end of the year.

Plans were approved for the erection of 6 houses, 41 bungalows, 14 garages, 2 lock-up shops, and flats, and 11 plans for premises modernised for shops and businesses.

A few plans were disapproved by the Council and the South-East Cornwall Regional Planning Committee, but it is hoped that when the necessary communicating road has been constructed and certain regulations observed that these plans will be passed.

OVERCROWDING.

Systematic inspections have been made of premises on the border-line, and also all premises suspected of overcrowding, and at once dealt with, except where a person has applied for a Council House and the Committee has placed such persons on their waiting list for a vacancy on the Corporation Fields Estate or the new Warfelton Estate.

The number of houses owned by the Council, including the almost completed Warfelton Estate is 195.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.—Inspection of Houses during the Year.

1. (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts	293
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	342
2. (a)	Number (included under sub-head 1 (a) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.....	Nil
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	Nil
3.	Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	Nil
4.	Number (exclusive of those referred to in the preceding paragraph found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	Nil

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	43
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.—

(1)	Number in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2)	Number rendered fit after service of formal notice	Nil
(a)	—By Owners	Nil
(b)	—By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

B.—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.—

(1)	Number in respect of which informal Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	32
(2)	Number in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices	Nil
(a)	—By Owners	Nil
(b)	—By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.—

(1)	Number in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.—

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4.—Housing Act 1936. Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year (on list for a Council House)	2
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	2
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	9½
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	7
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	5
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	26
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a)—MILK SUPPLY.

There are 6 certified Milk Traders.

There are 31 producers of milk in the District of whom 14 are also retailers. These have been regularly inspected.

(b)—MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The Slaughter Houses (2 in number) have been regularly inspected, and also the Butchers' Shops.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle and Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	395	42	1527	565
				(44 being on farm premises)
Number Inspected	185	21	613	297

No Carcases were condemned.

There are 8 Ice Cream Vendors, and their produce has been found to be satisfactory.

(c)—ADULTERATION.

(d)—CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

No action taken.

(e)—NUTRITION.

No action.

(f)—SHELL FISH.

There are no Oyster Beds here now. Plymouth City Council have taken action under the Shell Fish Regulations, 1934, and have forbidden the taking of Shell Fish from the waters here over which they have jurisdiction.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INEFCTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The arrangements for accommodation at the Plymouth Isolation Hospital were completed during the year, and the Local Authority, in conjunction with two neighbouring Authorities, pay a retaining charge and then maintenance when any case is admitted for treatment.

During the year there were 9 cases of Scarlet Fever, of a mild type, 11 cases of Pneumonia, and 3 of Erysipelas.

TABLE SHEWING AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

Disease.	Total	3-4	5-10	10-15	AGES.					
					15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	65-65	65 and over
Pneumonia	11	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1
Scarlet Fever	9	1	1	1	2	2	2
Erysipelas	3	1	1	1

One case of Scarlet Fever was removed to Hospital for treatment.

Disinfection of premises is done on application to me or to the Sanitary Inspector, and disinfectants can be obtained on application to the latter.

No action has been taken with reference to Immunisation.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS :

No action taken.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action was necessary relating to persons suffering from Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade, nor as to compulsory removal to Hospital.

Six new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were reported, and two Non-Pulmonary.

Age Period	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>		<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
15—25	2	1	1	1	1
25—35	1
35—45	1
45—55	1
55—65	1

At the end of the year the number of cases on the Register was : Respiratory, 11 ; Non-Respiratory, 7.

In conclusion, I should like to mention my appreciation of your Sanitary Inspector's work, and to express my thanks to Mr. Harris and his staff for their assistance.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. G. ROBINSON.

